



# NEWS RELEASE

## Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts

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### Calendar Year 1997 Shows Bankruptcy Filings Up 19 Percent Over 1996

The number of bankruptcy petitions filed in calendar year 1997 was up 19.1 percent over the same 12-month period ending December 31, 1996, according to data released today by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. This follows 1997 fiscal year (September 30, 1996-October 1, 1997) filings that were 23 percent higher than in FY96.

Filings in the calendar year period ending December 31, 1997, totalled 1,404,145, the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive record high for a 12-month period since filings passed the one-million mark for the first time in the 12-month period ending June 30, 1996. Filings have risen steadily since.

The number of bankruptcies filed during the first quarter of FY98 (October 1-December 31, 1997)—347,685—was down slightly from the last quarter of FY97 when filings totaled 353,515. Filings in the first quarter of FY97 (October 1—December 31, 1996) totaled 311,131, at that time the highest number of petitions filed for a quarter.

As the number of bankruptcy filings has increased, so has the workload of the 93 federal bankruptcy courts. The Judiciary has asked Congress for additional bankruptcy judgeships to handle the rising caseload. New bankruptcy judgeships were last created in 1992. The Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 1997, H.R. 1596, would authorize a total of 18 new bankruptcy judgeships, seven new permanent bankruptcy judgeships and 11 temporary judgeships. The House passed H.R. 1596 in the first session of the 105th Congress. So far in the second session, no bankruptcy judgeship bill has been introduced in the Senate.

#### Bankruptcy Filings in the District Courts

Among the U.S. bankruptcy courts, the Central District of California remained the district reporting the largest number of filings—118,335—for the 1997 calendar year, a 15.3 percent increase over calendar year 1996. The Districts of New Jersey and Maryland, the Eastern District of Virginia, the Northern District of Illinois, the Northern and Eastern Districts of California, the Middle District of Florida and the Northern District of Georgia all showed over 30,000 bankruptcy filings in this period. Only two districts reported a decline in filings in this calendar

<b>Total Filings for the <u>Twelve-Month period ending</u></b>	
<b>Dec. 31, 1995</b>	<b>926,601</b>
March 31, 1996	980,126
June 30, 1996	1,042,110
Sept.30, 1996	1,111,964
<b>Dec. 31, 1996</b>	<b>1,178,555</b>
March 31, 1997	1,247,065
June 30, 1997	1,316,999
Sept.30, 1997	1,367,364
<b>Dec. 31, 1997</b>	<b>1,404,145</b>

(MORE)

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**Continued**

year: the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands and the Southern District of Alabama.

**Filings by Chapter**

Of the total number of bankruptcy filings for the 12-month period ending December 31, 1997, there were 989,372 Chapter 7 filings, an increase of 22.1 percent over the 810,400 filings in the same period in 1996. The next largest group of filings were Chapter 13 filings at 403,025, a 13.5 percent increase over the 355,123 filings in the same period in 1996. Chapter 11 filings dropped to 10,765 in calendar year 1997 from 11,911 in 1996. Chapter 12 filings also fell in this period, from 1,083 in 1996 to 949 in 1997. Business filings totaled 54,027. Non-business filings totaled 1,350,118, up 20 percent from the total non-business filings of 1,125,006 in calendar year 1996.

**Business and Non-business Bankruptcy Cases Filed, By Chapter During the Three-Month Period Ended December 31, 1997**

Total Filings	Chapter 7	Chapter 11	Chapter 12	Chapter 13
347,685	243,441	2,278	205	101,759
Total Business	Chapter 7	Chapter 11	Chapter 12	Chapter 13
12,653	7,881	2,051	205	2,514
<b>Total</b>				
Non-Business	Chapter 7	Chapter 11		Chapter 13
335,032	235,560	227		99,245

Chapter 7 is designed to allow individuals to keep certain exempt property while the remaining property is sold to repay creditors. Under Chapter 13 bankruptcy, creditors may be repaid in installments, in full or in part, over a 3- to 5-year period. Chapter 11 provides for a business to continue operations while formulating a plan to repay its creditors. Chapter 12 is designed to meet the needs of financially distressed family farmers.

A breakdown of the latest data on bankruptcy filings follows and also is available on the home page of the Judiciary at [www.uscourts.gov](http://www.uscourts.gov).

**Quarterly Bankruptcy\***  
**Filings 3-Month Period**

Ending	Total Filings
DEC. 31, 1997	347,685
SEPT. 30, 1997	353,515
JUN. 30, 1997	367,168
MAR. 31, 1997	335,073
DEC. 31, 1996	311,131
SEPT. 30, 1996	303,309
JUN. 30, 1996	297,162
MAR. 31, 1996	266,149
DEC. 31, 1995	244,494
SEPT. 30, 1995	233,593
JUN. 30, 1995	235,302
MAR. 31, 1995	212,626
DEC. 31, 1994	201,618
SEPT. 30, 1994	208,187
JUN. 30, 1994	216,213
MAR. 31, 1994	206,565
DEC. 31, 1993	206,570
SEPT. 30, 1993	215,498
JUN. 30, 1993	229,406
MAR. 31, 1993	222,694
DEC. 31, 1992	228,562
SEPT. 30, 1992	236,810
JUN. 30, 1992	250,622
MAR. 31, 1992	252,733
DEC. 31, 1991	234,383
SEPT. 30, 1991	231,743
JUN. 30, 1991	246,496
MAR. 31, 1991	231,017
DEC. 31, 1990	209,798
SEPT. 30, 1990	192,555

\*Because of ongoing corrections to the bankruptcy database, the quarterly data may not total to the most recent annual figures.

TABLE F-2 U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURTS  
BUSINESS AND NONBUSINESS BANKRUPTCY CASES COMMENCED, BY CHAPTER OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE,  
DURING THE TWELVE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1997

CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT	TOTAL FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	TOTAL BUSINESS FILINGS*	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	TOTAL NON- BUSINESS FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 13
<b>TOTAL..</b>	<b>1,404,145</b>	<b>989,372</b>	<b>10,765</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>403,025</b>	<b>54,027</b>	<b>32,255</b>	<b>9,694</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>11,095</b>	<b>1,350,118</b>	<b>957,117</b>	<b>1,071</b>	<b>391,930</b>
DC.....	2,530	1,630	63	-	836	100	33	48	-	18	2,430	1,597	15	818
1ST...	54,154	38,756	484	11	14,903	1,804	1,139	442	11	212	52,350	37,617	42	14,691
ME.....	4,218	3,822	16	4	376	310	212	16	4	78	3,908	3,610	-	298
MA.....	23,892	20,475	298	1	3,118	965	561	288	1	115	22,927	19,914	10	3,003
NH.....	4,902	4,586	41	3	272	187	142	40	3	2	4,715	4,444	1	270
RI.....	5,472	5,237	19	-	216	180	146	19	-	15	5,292	5,091	-	201
PR.....	15,670	4,636	110	3	10,921	162	78	79	3	2	15,508	4,558	31	10,919
2ND...	90,128	74,541	1,343	44	14,193	3,522	1,794	1,181	44	496	86,606	72,747	162	13,697
CT.....	13,499	11,895	134	4	1,466	205	93	105	4	3	13,294	11,802	29	1,463
NY,N....	16,173	13,559	88	24	2,502	777	493	85	24	175	15,396	13,066	3	2,327
NY,E....	29,459	23,967	400	-	5,092	566	233	326	-	7	28,893	23,734	74	5,085
NY,S....	15,972	13,604	621	-	1,740	846	244	568	-	27	15,126	13,360	53	1,713
NY,W....	13,114	9,762	73	9	3,270	964	625	71	9	259	12,150	9,137	2	3,011
VT.....	1,911	1,754	27	7	123	164	106	26	7	25	1,747	1,648	1	98
3RD...	88,121	63,636	1,361	31	23,090	3,228	1,665	1,189	31	340	84,893	61,971	172	22,750
DE.....	2,646	1,697	189	1	759	214	25	188	1	-	2,432	1,672	1	759
NJ.....	42,434	29,826	635	2	11,969	1,112	567	517	2	24	41,322	29,259	118	11,945
PA,E....	21,773	13,661	277	12	7,822	561	259	255	12	34	21,212	13,402	22	7,788
PA,M....	9,593	8,141	96	7	1,349	852	507	88	7	250	8,741	7,634	8	1,099
PA,W....	11,601	10,259	155	9	1,178	472	299	132	9	32	11,129	9,960	23	1,146
VI.....	74	52	9	-	13	17	8	9	-	-	57	44	-	13
4TH...	121,087	80,283	858	34	39,912	4,467	2,735	793	34	905	116,620	77,548	65	39,007
MD.....	31,991	23,403	292	4	8,292	1,678	1,092	278	4	304	30,313	22,311	14	7,988
NC,E....	9,788	4,692	57	10	5,029	426	207	54	10	155	9,362	4,485	3	4,874
NC,M....	9,289	2,483	37	3	6,766	212	151	35	3	23	9,077	2,332	2	6,743
NC,W....	7,126	3,072	29	2	4,023	82	50	29	2	1	7,044	3,022	-	4,022
SC.....	11,232	6,061	95	7	5,069	346	133	85	7	121	10,886	5,928	10	4,948
VA,E....	31,921	23,417	235	3	8,266	767	410	202	3	152	31,154	23,007	33	8,114
VA,W....	11,198	9,173	63	3	1,959	589	438	61	3	87	10,609	8,735	2	1,872
WV,N....	3,475	3,252	22	2	199	179	124	22	2	31	3,296	3,128	-	168
WV,S....	5,067	4,730	28	-	309	188	130	27	-	31	4,879	4,600	1	278
5TH...	115,156	60,167	973	170	53,844	4,439	2,025	890	170	1,352	110,717	58,142	83	52,492
LA,E....	7,365	4,844	79	3	2,439	141	70	67	3	1	7,224	4,774	12	2,438
LA,M....	2,805	1,836	19	1	949	52	29	18	1	4	2,753	1,807	1	945
LA,W....	12,988	5,517	52	54	7,365	481	242	50	54	135	12,507	5,275	2	7,230
MS,N....	6,602	3,915	28	12	2,646	153	78	27	12	35	6,449	3,837	1	2,611
MS,S....	12,667	7,021	37	5	5,604	146	87	34	5	20	12,521	6,934	3	5,584
TX,N....	25,373	12,282	279	53	12,758	1,546	681	265	53	546	23,827	11,601	14	12,212
TX,E....	9,734	4,389	56	17	5,272	522	202	53	17	250	9,212	4,187	3	5,022
TX,S....	19,508	10,578	248	15	8,667	754	308	213	15	218	18,754	10,270	35	8,449
TX,W....	18,114	9,785	175	10	8,144	644	328	163	10	143	17,470	9,457	12	8,001

TABLE F-2 U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURTS

BUSINESS AND NONBUSINESS BANKRUPTCY CASES COMMENCED, BY CHAPTER OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE,

DURING THE TWELVE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1997

(CONTINUED)

CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT	TOTAL FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	TOTAL BUSINESS FILINGS*	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	TOTAL NON BUSINESS FILINGS	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 13
6TH...	167,850	109,942	775	64	57,068	3,627	2,026	736	64	800	164,223	107,916	39	56,268
KY,E....	9,558	8,270	22	3	1,263	273	198	21	3	51	9,285	8,072	1	1,212
KY,W....	12,129	9,643	46	6	2,434	176	110	46	6	14	11,953	9,533	-	2,420
MI,E....	27,348	19,992	223	10	7,123	595	328	215	10	42	26,753	19,664	8	7,081
MI,W....	12,261	9,145	78	14	3,024	511	295	74	14	128	11,750	8,850	4	2,896
OH,N....	26,200	21,451	67	9	4,673	480	312	65	9	94	25,720	21,139	2	4,579
OH,S....	27,570	20,728	110	8	6,724	526	316	104	8	98	27,044	20,412	6	6,626
TN,E....	16,254	8,268	53	7	7,926	422	171	50	7	194	15,832	8,097	3	7,732
TN,M....	12,478	6,593	103	3	5,779	457	222	96	3	136	12,021	6,371	7	5,643
TN,W....	24,052	5,852	73	4	18,122	187	74	65	4	43	23,865	5,778	8	18,079
7TH...	119,959	96,612	549	75	22,722	3,684	2,665	522	75	421	116,275	93,947	27	22,301
IL,N....	44,087	32,578	274	1	11,233	854	548	257	1	47	43,233	32,030	17	11,186
IL,C....	12,854	11,215	25	17	1,597	295	216	25	17	37	12,559	10,999	-	1,560
IL,S....	7,013	5,263	28	7	1,715	639	478	28	7	126	6,374	4,785	-	1,589
IN,N....	13,658	11,768	53	12	1,825	213	127	50	12	24	13,445	11,641	3	1,801
IN,S....	23,150	19,231	83	10	3,826	470	312	79	10	69	22,680	18,919	4	3,757
WI,E....	12,940	10,869	26	6	2,039	348	272	26	6	44	12,592	10,597	-	1,995
WI,W....	6,257	5,688	60	22	487	865	712	57	22	74	5,392	4,976	3	413
8TH...	82,102	61,077	330	199	20,494	4,912	3,408	317	199	986	77,190	57,669	13	19,508
AR,E....	9,942	5,153	31	8	4,750	283	144	30	8	101	9,659	5,009	1	4,649
AR,W....	5,701	3,700	21	8	1,972	256	129	18	8	101	5,445	3,571	3	1,871
IA,N....	3,996	3,839	13	9	135	235	192	12	9	22	3,761	3,647	1	113
IA,S....	5,847	5,271	20	4	552	270	222	19	4	25	5,577	5,049	1	527
MN.....	20,225	15,422	78	28	4,697	2,478	1,860	78	28	512	17,747	13,562	-	4,185
MO,E....	14,897	9,155	50	5	5,687	300	205	48	5	42	14,597	8,950	2	5,645
MO,W....	11,218	9,570	72	9	1,567	433	276	68	9	80	10,785	9,294	4	1,487
NE.....	5,949	4,946	22	53	926	281	163	21	53	42	5,668	4,783	1	884
ND.....	1,961	1,840	9	38	74	155	92	9	38	16	1,806	1,748	-	58
SD.....	2,366	2,181	14	37	134	221	125	14	37	45	2,145	2,056	-	89
9TH...	316,026	251,700	2,484	137	61,695	16,356	10,464	2,143	137	3,602	299,670	241,236	341	58,093
AK.....	1,373	1,223	18	-	132	147	98	17	-	32	1,226	1,125	1	100
AZ.....	25,069	19,580	309	7	5,172	846	424	273	7	141	24,223	19,156	36	5,031
CA,N....	34,781	25,153	338	2	9,286	2,116	1,046	274	2	792	32,665	24,107	64	8,494
CA,E....	36,976	31,552	180	38	5,204	2,624	1,755	162	38	667	34,352	29,797	18	4,537
CA,C....	118,335	96,418	907	6	21,003	6,184	4,395	757	6	1,025	112,151	92,023	150	19,978
CA,S....	19,407	14,516	96	1	4,793	213	130	71	1	10	19,194	14,386	25	4,783
HI.....	4,463	3,960	50	-	453	187	123	45	-	19	4,276	3,837	5	434
ID.....	6,973	5,381	39	51	1,502	532	289	36	51	156	6,441	5,092	3	1,346
MT.....	3,572	2,777	21	17	757	278	161	16	17	84	3,294	2,616	5	673
NV.....	13,427	9,596	157	-	3,671	399	173	151	-	72	13,028	9,423	6	3,599
OR.....	18,197	14,630	43	2	3,522	1,434	1,056	41	2	335	16,763	13,574	2	3,187
WA,E....	7,052	5,831	61	8	1,152	448	286	61	8	93	6,604	5,545	-	1,059
WA,W....	26,285	20,995	262	5	5,023	926	509	236	5	176	25,359	20,486	26	4,847

TABLE F-2 U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURTS  
 BUSINESS AND NONBUSINESS BANKRUPTCY CASES COMMENCED, BY CHAPTER OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE,  
 DURING THE TWELVE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1997  
 (CONTINUED)

CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT	TOTAL FILINGS	TOTAL BUSINESS FILINGS*				TOTAL NON BUSINESS FILINGS					
		CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11	CHAP. 12	CHAP. 13	CHAP. 7	CHAP. 11
GUAM...	114	87	2	-	25	21	19	2	-	93	68
NMI....	2	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1
10TH..	76,584	58,435	416	108	17,621	3,208	2,073	396	108	627	73,376
CO.....	19,146	15,727	99	20	3,298	518	361	97	20	38	18,628
KS.....	13,131	10,391	73	24	2,643	412	230	66	24	92	12,719
NM.....	7,560	5,361	54	4	2,141	384	217	50	4	113	7,176
OK,N...	6,007	4,942	37	3	1,025	648	488	33	3	124	5,359
OK,E...	3,462	3,139	22	15	285	176	118	22	15	20	3,286
OK,W...	13,100	10,278	50	32	2,740	545	365	49	32	99	12,555
UT.....	12,147	6,811	63	6	5,266	434	247	61	6	119	11,713
WY.....	2,031	1,786	18	4	223	91	47	18	4	22	1,940
11TH..	170,448	92,593	1,129	76	76,647	4,680	2,228	1,037	76	1,336	165,768
AL,N...	22,732	8,328	100	3	14,301	442	171	93	3	175	22,290
AL,M...	6,670	2,820	31	7	3,812	284	152	31	7	94	6,386
AL,S...	4,774	2,239	26	1	2,508	150	64	23	1	62	4,624
FL,N...	4,787	3,979	33	-	775	129	63	30	-	36	4,658
FL,M...	42,388	33,465	323	12	8,587	1,217	647	291	12	266	41,171
FL,S...	26,308	19,948	331	2	6,025	816	467	307	2	38	25,492
GA,N...	34,946	13,379	207	3	21,357	1,130	486	187	3	454	33,816
GA,M...	15,136	5,516	38	39	9,543	202	65	36	39	62	14,934
GA,S...	12,707	2,919	40	9	9,739	310	113	39	9	149	12,397
											2,806
											1
											9,590

\*THESE FIGURES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING CASES NOT REFLECTED ELSEWHERE:

DC.....SECTION 304 = 01	NY,S.... SECTION 304 = 07	NJ..... SECTION 304 = 02
PA,E....CHAPTER 9 = 01	MS,N.... CHAPTER 9 = 01	TX,N.... CHAPTER 9 = 01
TN,W....CHAPTER 9 = 01	IL,N.... SECTION 304 = 01	NE..... CHAPTER 9 = 02
AZ.....CHAPTER 9 = 01	CA,N.... SECTION 304 = 02	CA,E.... CHAPTER 9 = 01
CA,E....SECTION 304 = 01	CA,C.... SECTION 304 = 01	CA,S.... SECTION 304 = 01
NV.....SECTION 304 = 03	CO..... CHAPTER 9 = 01	CO..... SECTION 304 = 01
OK,E....CHAPTER 9 = 01	UT..... SECTION 304 = 01	FL,M... SECTION 304 = 01
FL,S....SECTION 304 = 02		